Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture
Chesapeake Bay

Shoreline

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Upcoming Events at the Nabb Research Center

Summer 2002
Pathways, Boundaries and Markers

A celebration of the history of mapmaking and surveying will be on display at the Nabb Research Center through September 2002.

September 20-21
Tracing Your Delmarva Ancestors Seminar

Nabb Research Center and the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society will co-host the seminar "Tracing Your Delmarva Ancestors." The Maryland Genealogical Society is sponsoring the seminar, which will be held at Salisbury University. For more details, visit our Web site at http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu.

Thursday, October 3
"The Rebel Is on Thy Shore— The Maryland Campaign of 1862" Lecture

Maryland Humanities Council Speakers Bureau Member Thomas G. Clemens will discuss the political and military dilemmas facing the Union and Confederate governments in the summer of 1862 and the powerful effects of the Maryland campaign on the direction of the Civil War. This event will be held in the Wicomico Room of SU's Guerrieri University Center and is free and open to the public.

Nabb Research Center Mourns Passing of Benefactor

Martin Williams, former vice president of advancement for SU, wrote the following letter. It appeared in the "Letters to the Editor" section of Salisbury's Daily Times *newspaper on June 9, 2002.*

Ed Nabb Jr.'s passing a great loss to area

The passing of Ed Nabb Jr. of Cambridge is a great loss, tempered only by our knowledge that Nabb went at life with gusto—and age never slowed him down. Like Sam Siedel, Bud Owens, Bill Riordan and so many other recently departed giants of the Eastern Shore, Nabb grew to manhood far out in the Pacific during World War II, surrounded by danger, displacement and lost time.

Unlike other generations of soldiers when they were "demobbed," Nabb and his many cohorts matured on history's stage in ways today's young people rarely know of. After the war, Nabb and other veterans threw themselves into family, career and community service with the same zeal as the conquerors they had been while enlisted.

To sit in Nabb's office in Cambridge, surrounded with museum quality photos, priceless archives and bottles of malt liquor sent decades before from his beloved Scotland, was simply sheer pleasure, as good as talk will ever get. Nabb knew the history of Dorchester and Caroline counties back centuries—his Scottish forebears had early settled the region and prospered on the land. Thrown into the war not more than a teen-age boy, when country schools ran for fewer years than they do today, his great ability was noticed and the Army sent him to engineering school, along with graduates of Yale and Harvard. Nabb graduated from the "College of World War II."

Armed with self-confidence, he returned to Cambridge and read law in an office the old-fashioned way—the way Abe Lincoln acquired his bar credentials–and went on to enjoy a distinguished career. He was a lawyer you could like. Of course, he was better known as a fearless boat racer, an airplane pilot, a handsome bon vivant who appreciated ladies' charms and a champion talker. Along

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with his many interests, Nabb had a genius for getting things done.

It's not generally observed most of the educational monuments in our region are donations from men and women who were prevented from attending college. Nabb saw the vision for preserving our heritage in the center that bears his name in Salisbury (Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture) and he jumped at the chance to endow our common history. From experience, I can say few philanthropists establish these endowments with teen-age boys still at home, with future college expenses.

Apropos of his funeral on Friday, Ed liked to joke that he never saw a hearse followed by a Mayflower moving van. Nabb has left it all behind—a fantastic family born of two generations, a generous foundation, a research center that preserves his name and our place in history, as well as many appreciative and adoring friends. Goodbye Ed.

Martin Williams
Salisbury

Worcester County Books

We are pleased to report that the rebinding of the Nabb Research Center's Somerset County books has now been completed. The Somerset books are back on the shelf and look great. We hope that this effort will make these books more accessible for our patrons and preserve the books, many of which are out of print. Thanks to all of the donors who helped make this project a reality. We are now heading into "phase II" of the rebinding plan. All of the soft cover books for Worcester County have been sent offsite for rebinding. These books will be at the bindery for the month of July and should return to the shelves by early August. Thank you for your patience as we work to enhance our holdings for our students, members and patrons.

One Shoreman's Legacy...

In reflecting on the passing of Ed Nabb, the Nabb Research Center staff and board looked at the impact that Nabb's endowment made on the Center. The endowment provided by Mr. Nabb brought the Nabb Research Center to a new level allowing for the addition not only of space but also of staff. Along with increased space and staff came a significant inflow of original records. The endowment increased community awareness to such a level that Delmarvans now look to the Nabb Research Center as the premier repository for lower Eastern Shore records.

In 1998, Nabb endowed the Center for $500,000. Nabb said that he gave the money as part of his estate planning. He wanted to give the money while he was still alive rather than let the government take it through estate taxes. In 1999, Nabb was quoted as saying, "All I wanted was my name associated with it in some fashion. It was the best thing I ever did with that money. I think it did a lot of good for a lot of people and isn't that the basis for giving a gift."*

In reviewing the Nabb Research Center's actual growth since the endowment, it is clear that the funds had a tremendous impact on the Center. The Center supports a number of student workers as well as awarding three student prizes for outstanding historical research. Attendance has grown a whopping 62 percent since the endowment. In calendar year 2001, the Nabb Research Center welcomed visitors from 34 different states and Great Britain.

The endowment has also given the Nabb Research Center the cache it needs to obtain grant funding from federal and state sources. In 2001, the Nabb Research Center garnered a $266,000 grant for the American Origins project. Director Becky Miller, the Center's lone employee in 1995, has been joined by several additional staff members, an archivist, a technical services librarian, an administrative assistant, a GIS technician and a research coordinator, primarily funded by grants. Most friends of the Nabb Research Center are familiar with American Origins, an ongoing effort to document the earliest settlers of Somerset County through maps and various colonial records. When this project is completed, the data may be used by scholars for all types of further study. The digital history concept was further buoyed in 2002 by a $50,000 grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. This type of grant funding may not have been available to the Center without the firm foundation and stability that was a direct outgrowth of the Nabb endowment.

Although the Nabb endowment has put the Center on a much firmer footing for the future by providing a modest source of annual income, there is still much work left to be done. Grant funding is only temporary, and the income derived from the Nabb endowment is subject to fluctuations in the market. In today's economic climate funding from governmental agencies and even interest income is uncertain. Thus, we continue to rely on our members for their continued support of the Nabb Research Center and its mission. If you are interested in planned giving for the future or current donations to the Nabb Research Center, please contact Director Rebecca Miller.

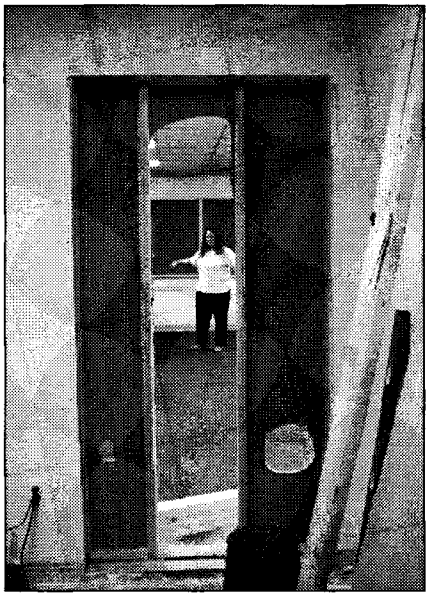
Tracing Your Delmarva Ancestors—It's Not Too Late to Register

The Maryland Genealogical Society will host its fall conference on the Eastern Shore this year. The Nabb Research Center and the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society are also co-hosting the seminar, "Tracing Your Delmarva Ancestors," which will take place on the campus of Salisbury University on Friday and Saturday, September 20 - 21, 2002. Whether you're a novice researcher or a seasoned family historian, this conference is sure to offer something of interest to you. This is truly a unique opportunity for Delmarva researchers because the best historians and researchers in the field have been assembled to speak at what promises to be an enjoyable and informative event. Some of the "headliners" for the conference include SU history professors Dr. Ray Thompson, who will speak on the migration of Virginians into Old Somerset, and Dr. Clara Small whose topic is "Slavery and the Underground Railroad on the Eastern Shore of Maryland." Nabb Research Center Director Becky Miller will host one of the breakout sessions on Researching Old Somerset records. Dr. Bart Talbert, SU History Professor and author of *Maryland: The Civil War's First Casualty*, promises to be an engaging speaker in his discussion on Maryland and the Civil War during the Friday evening banquet. Other speakers include Russ McCabe of the Delaware State Archives, V.L. Skinner Jr., noted compiler of the *Abstracts of the Maryland Prerogative Court Probate* series, Dr. R.J. Rockefeller of the Maryland Archives, F. Edward Wright, *Delmarva Roots* publisher, Robert Barnes, noted compiler of Maryland records, Dr. Peter Craig, author of *Swedes from New Sweden: Those Who Settled the Delmarva Peninsula*, Dr. Kenneth Carroll, *Early Quakers on Delmarva* and Neil Keddie of Family Tree Bookshop. For a complete listing of speakers and topics, please go to the Web site www.delmarvaroots.com.

Over 100 exhibitors and vendors from all over the United States will be on hand at the seminar. The cost of the seminar is $25 per day or $50 for both days. The banquet is $25 per person. Registration forms are available at the Nabb Research Center or can be obtained online by visiting the link Maryland Genealogical Society link on the Nabb Research Center's Web site at http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu. In an effort to accommodate out of town visitors attending the conference, the Nabb Research Center will be open until 9 p.m. on Thursday, September 19. Volunteers and staff members will be available to provide research assistance. We look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Break On Through to the Other Side

The Nabb Research Center is moving. Well ... not exactly, but the Center is delighted to announce the acquisition of an additional 1,100 square feet of space in the Power Professional Building. The Center acquired several rooms of space from SU as the Math Department is moving into the new Henson Hall as this goes to press. The additional space includes a large classroom, which will be converted into a larger, secure, climate-controlled archival stacks. This addition will help us improve the quality of our services on several levels, including allowing us quicker access our archives, documents and artifacts. On July 9, workers broke through the wall between the old and new spaces and have installed a fire door connecting the two areas. The construction was paid for with membership fees from our loyal patrons. As soon as contractors remove old carpet from the space, Nabb Research Center Archivist Becca Brooks will coordinate the transfer of archival materials into the new facility, known as the "archival wing." The addition of several new shelving units will ease crowding throughout the Center. The move will probably begin in mid-August. During this time, the archives may be inaccessible for at least a week. Accordingly, if you are interested in doing research in the archives, you may want to call the Center before you visit. In addition to the archival space, the Center is also acquiring several small offices. Becca will use one of the offices to create an archival processing room to protect valuable items as they are being accessioned. Nabb Center staffers will host an open house this fall so that students, members and patrons can tour the new space.



Nabb Research Center Archivist Becca Brooks stands in the new space. This hole in the wall has been replaced by a secure fire door.

Get Your Shoreline On-Line

Would you like to receive your monthly Nabb Research Center newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail? The Nabb Research Center will gladly send your *Shoreline* newsletter to your e-mail address. This offer only applies to the monthly one-page newsletter. The large "members only" bi-annual edition of the *Shoreline* will not be sent by e-mail because of its size and graphic content. If you are interested in this offer, please send an e-mail to rcdhac@salisbury.edu. Please be sure to include the exact e-mail address to which you would like your newsletter sent as well as your name and address for verification purposes. Please call the Center at 410-543-6312 if you have any questions.

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1930 Census Has Arrived!

The 1930 Federal Census microfilms for Sussex and Kent counties, Delaware, Somerset, Worcester and Wicomico counties, Maryland, and Accomack and Northampton counties, Viriginia, have finally arrived and are on the shelf. Check them out during your next visit.

Closing

The Nabb Research Center will be closed on Saturday, September 28, 2002, so that the staff can host a display at the Pemberton Fair at Pemberton Historical Park in Salisbury. Please plan your research accordingly. There may also be several closing dates in August as Nabb staffers move archival materials into the new archive space. Please call the Center or visit our Web site to check the Center's schedule.

Honoring Delmarva's Heroes

Do you have a family member who served active military duty in any 20th-21st century conflict? If so, would you be willing to share a photo of your loved one? The Nabb Research Center is in the process of assembling a display highlighting the contributions of Delmarvans in preserving our nation's freedom. Part of the display will include a collage of photographs of Eastern Shore men and women who served our nation in times of armed conflict. If you have a war-era photograph, please call the Center to make arrangements to have the photo scanned for inclusion in the collage. All original photographs will be returned after we scan the images on-site. In order for your photo to be included in the collage, you must be able to identify the pictured individual. Branch of service, rank and perhaps a favorite remembrance can also be included as part of the collage. If you are interested in participating in this historic display, please contact the project coordinators Iris Powell or Jill Jeffery at 410-546-6312.

Photo from www.iwojima.com